

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

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**Fire — Glossary of terms**

**Part 2: Fire protection and  
firefighting equipment**

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This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee FP/10, Terms and Definitions. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 2 November 1990 and published on 28 March 1991.

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The following interests are represented on Committee FP/10

Australia Post  
Australian Fire Protection Association  
Civil Aviation Authority (Commonwealth)  
Commonwealth Fire Board  
Department of Administrative Services—Australian Construction Services  
Electricity Supply Association of Australia  
Fire Protection Industry Association of Australia  
Insurance Council of Australia  
Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, Melbourne  
Safety Institute of Australia

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Second edition 1991.

## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Terms and Definitions (relating to fire protection and firefighting equipment) to supersede AS 2484.2—1985. This edition has been expanded to add terms to each of the sections existing and to include a new section containing terms on explosion detection and suppression. Some of the terms and definitions in existing Australian Standards for fire protection and firefighting equipment are now included in this Standard.

Wherever possible the committee has endeavoured to align terms and definitions with the recommendations of ISO/TC 21/SC1, Terminology, Symbols, Signs and Classification of Fire.

As mentioned in the Preface to the first edition of this Standard, a number of commonly used terms were considered by the committee, but were rejected, the principal reasons for their exclusion being —

- the term is self-evident and does not need defining
- the dictionary meaning is sufficient
- the term represents a grammatical extension or alternative to an included term
- the term is not used in Australia.

The aim of this Standard is to provide a glossary of simple basic definitions each of which is capable of extension for specific purposes for use by the specialist.

- 1 Preferred terms are in boldface type.
- 2 Non-preferred terms are in roman type, listed alphabetically under the corresponding preferred term.
- 3 Deprecated terms are in roman type with 'deprecated' after them and within parenthesis. The terms are listed alphabetically under the corresponding preferred term or non-preferred terms, if any.
- 4 Units are not part of a definition (except where the item being defined is actually a unit). Units are put into a 'Note' beneath the definition.

Reference was made to numerous Australian Standards relevant to fire during the preparation of this Standard. In addition, reference was made to the following ISO documents and assistance received therefrom is acknowledged:

ISO

3941 Classification of fires

DP 8421 Fire protection — Terminology

DP 8421.1 Part 1: General terms and phenomena

DP 8421.2 Part 2: Structural fire protection

DP 8421.3 Part 3: Fire detection and alarm

DP 8421.4 Part 4: Fire extinction equipment

DP 8421.5 Part 5: Smoke control

DP 8421.6 Part 6: Evacuation and means of escape

DP 8421.7 Part 7: Explosion detection and suppression means

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## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
SECTION 1 GENERAL TERMS AND PHENOMENA OF FIRE . . . . .	4
SECTION 2 STRUCTURAL PROTECTION AGAINST FIRE . . . . .	6
SECTION 3 FIRE DETECTION AND ALARM . . . . .	8
SECTION 4 FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT AND ENGINEERING . . . . .	11
SECTION 5 SMOKE CONTROL . . . . .	19
SECTION 6 EVACUATION AND MEANS OF ESCAPE . . . . .	21
SECTION 7 EXPLOSION DETECTION AND SUPPRESSION . . . . .	23
APPENDIX A LIST OF REFERENCED DOCUMENTS . . . . .	24
INDEX . . . . .	25

## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

## Australian Standard

## Glossary of terms relating to fire protection and firefighting equipment

## SECTION 1 GENERAL TERMS AND PHENOMENA OF FIRE

<i>No.</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
1.001	<b>fire authority</b>	The authority responsible for fire prevention and extinction in the area concerned.
1.002	<b>combustible</b>	<i>See</i> AS 2484.1.
1.003	<b>fire point (chemical)</b>	The lowest temperature at which a substance gives off sufficient flammable vapour in air to produce sustained combustion after the removal of the ignition source. <i>See also auto-ignition temperature</i> (1.036).
1.004	<b>lower flammability limit (LFL)</b>	The lowest percentage concentration by volume of flammable vapour or gas in air which will burn with a flame under specified conditions.
1.005	<b>upper flammability limit (UFL)</b>	The highest percentage concentration by volume of flammable vapour or gas in air which will burn with a flame under specified conditions.
1.006	<b>flammability range</b>	The range of percentage of vapour or gas concentration by volume in air between the upper and lower limits of flammability.
1.007	<b>chimney effect</b>	The upward thrust of hot gases in a vertical enclosure, due to the buoyancy of the confined gases. <i>See also stack pressure effect</i> (5.014).
1.008	<b>mushroom effect</b>	A horizontal spread of hot gases at a ceiling or roof level due to the vertical restriction of upward currents.
1.009	<b>fire load</b>	The heat energy potential of the whole contents contained in a space, including the facings of the walls, partitions, floors, and ceilings.  NOTE: Fire load is expressed in joules.
1.010	<b>fire load density</b>	The fire load divided by floor area.  NOTE: Fire load density is expressed in joules per square metre.
1.011	<b>spread of flame index</b>	A classification index of materials according to numbers which indicate the rate at which flame spreads over their surfaces, in accordance with AS 1530.3.
1.012	<b>inhibition</b>	A process of fire extinguishment by the use of an agent which interrupts the chemical reactions in the flame.
1.013	<b>inhibitory factor</b>	The minimum percentage in air of a gaseous extinguishing agent that will achieve extinction by inhibiting combustion.
1.014	<b>fire-resistance level (FRL)</b> (fire-resistance rating <i>deprecated</i> )	<i>See</i> AS 2484.1.
1.015	<b>ignitability</b>	<i>See</i> AS 2484.1.
1.016	<b>high-rise building</b>	A multistorey building with a height of 25 m or more, measured from the lowest floor giving natural egress from the building to the floor of the topmost storey of the building.
1.017	<b>regulatory authority</b>	A Minister of the Crown, a government department, or other public authority having power to issue regulations, orders, or other instructions in respect of any subject covered by this Standard.